a search means for searching an area of said register points belonging to the category input by said input means by referring to said flags representing the presence or absence of said register point data in said information storage means; and

a display means for displaying an area with flags representing the presence of the register points ∨data searched by said searching means.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 16 and 17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 4-7, 11, 14 and 18-23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 16 and 17 are amended. No new matter is submitted. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 as the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims; and (d) places the application in even better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 11 and 16-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Mikame (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,920). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

To maintain a 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, a reference must teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Mikame does not do so.

-3-

Applicants' invention comprises at least a navigation system having an input means for inputting information or a reference position for searching register points, an information storage means for storing register point data, a search means for searching the register points within a predetermined limit, area or block, and a display means for displaying the results of the search as recited in the various independent claims 1, 3, 16 and 17, respectively.

More specifically, according to claim 1, when searching register points existing within a predetermined limit on the basis of the input reference position, the input means can expand the input area, for example, to an area encompassing a country, a state or a city, and the searched means can expand the search of the register points existing within the input area. In this regard, the reference position is not the same as the area. For example, when a driver inputs a reference position near a border between the United States and Canada, the register points are searched within the predetermined limit around the reference position, i.e., the search is not dedicated merely to the location of the reference position, but rather includes the designated area around the reference position. In addition, if one wishes to search only the register points in the United States, in this example, then one can input an area name, for example, "USA", resulting in only those register points located in the United States being searched. Mikame on the other hand, inputs only the reference position, and not the area surrounding the reference position, such as a country, state or city. Thus, Mikame fails to teach, suggest or disclose the combination of features claimed with respect to claim 1, from which claim 2 depends.

Still further according to the remaining independent claims 3, 16 and 17 of Applicants' invention, the display means displays only the category or area having flags representing the presence of the register point data. On the other hand, Mikame displays all categories, as shown in Fig. 6A, but does not display only the category or area with flags representing the presence of register point data as in the claimed invention. Even if airports

do not exist around the reference position, for example, Mikame nevertheless <u>always</u> displays the category "airport" shown in Fig. 6A. Thus, even if a user selects "airport" in Mikame, the search result is "no airport exists around the reference position". According to claim 3, for example, of Applicants' invention, however, the same case would result in a category "airport" being given a flag indicating the absence of an airport and the display means <u>would not</u> display "airport", as described in the specification at page 13, line 29 to page 14, line 10, for example. Thus, Mikame fails to teach, disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in claims 3, 16 and 17. Finally, the cancellation of claims 4, 11, 14 and 18-23 render any rejection of these claims moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 14 and 16-23 is respectfully requested.
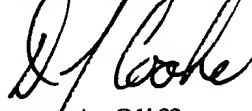
In item 6 of the Office Action, claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Mikame in view of Maekawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,508). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention is discussed above. Mikame is discussed above. Maekawa fails to overcome the deficiencies of Mikame as discussed above with respect to claim 1 from which claim 2 depends. Thus, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 2 is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the claims presented in view of the remarks made herein patentably distinguish over the art applied and pose no 35 U.S.C. §112 issues. Accordingly, prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 16 and 17 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that anything further is desirable to place the

application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Dermott J. Cooke
Registration No. 41,685

JAO:DJC/dlh

Attachment:
    Appendix
    Petition for Extension of Time (1 month)

Date: June 26, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461